

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, November 18, 1871.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

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A subscriber desiring to change the post office address of his paper must communicate to us the name of the office to which it has been previously sent; otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices.

Mr. V. DARLING is now canvassing and collecting in Cumberland County.

Mr. E. BRUMMER will visit Waldo County during October and November.

Mr. G. A. TURNER is now canvassing Knox County.

Mr. H. RICE, Esq., will canvass Lincoln County during November and December.

Special Notice to Subscribers.

We renew the liberal offer made to our subscribers last year, of which, they will take immediate advantage, viz:

All persons in areas who will send us the amount now due, at the rate of \$2 per year and two dollars in addition, shall receive credit for all past indebtedness, and for a year's subscription in advance. This offer to stand open until the 1st of January, 1872. All payments made at this office, or by mail, or to our authorized agents previous to that date, will be credited in accordance with the terms above stated.

Compulsory Education.

The question of compulsory education is many-sided. Not only the right, but the necessity, policy and practicability of the thing must each in turn be considered. Today we will content ourselves with calling the attention of our readers to some considerations bearing on the right of the State to compel education of the citizens.

In the first place we would remark that this right rests on the same grounds as the right to lay taxes for the purpose of providing the means of education. If the State may take the money of Brown to maintain schools for the instruction of Jones's children, it may also insist that Jones's children shall come to receive the instruction thus provided. To suppose the former right to exist without the latter would be contrary to common sense. There are not wanting, to be sure, philosophers who deny the existence of either, but we have practically recognized it as the duty of the State to maintain free schools for public instruction we shall be quite inconsistent if we deny the supplementary right of compelling the attendance of those for whom the instruction is designed, whenever the necessity of compulsion exists.

Again, the State has always exercised the right of protecting the child from abuse by the parent. The parent may not starve or maim or otherwise maltreat his offspring. It is reasonable to grant him the right to deprive them of the means of culture, such as will fit them for the duties of life? Is the intellect of so little importance in comparison with the body of the child that the strong arm of the law may interfere to prevent the parent from injuring the latter, while it must leave him free to starve and stint the former at his will? Shall we not rather say that it is the most impulsive duty of the State toward the child to see that it is not deformed by its selfish or ignorant parents of its fair share of intellectual culture. The parent is the natural guardian of the child, and, still, it is presumed, a faithful guardian; but in how many instances, known to each one of our readers, does the presumption fail? How often does he sacrifice all the interest intrusted to his charge to his own selfish purpose?

We pretend to deny the right of the government to require military service on its sand and in aiding the officers of the law. Can it be a less essential power of government to insist on such a training of youth as to fit them for an intelligent performance of all their duties toward the State? It is generally conceded by intelligent persons that popular ignorance, if not the source from whence spring the gravest dangers that threaten the safety and well-being of society, is at least the congenital soil in which they take ready root, and make rank growth. Surely, as a means of precaution against these dangers the State may insist on the dispersion of ignorance.

A proper consideration of these and other arguments in favor of compulsory education will prepare us to approach with greater candor the questions of necessity, policy and practicability, which will soon force upon our attention. Let due weight be given to all the arguments for and against.

STATE TEACHERS' CONVENTION. The fifth annual meeting of the Maine Educational Association will be held at City Hall, Portland, on Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. The following are the orders of exercises:

Monday, Nov. 27.—8 P. M.—Opening exercises and organization.

54 P. M.—How shall we obtain Trained Teachers for our Public Schools? Discussion; opened by G. T. Fletcher, of Castine, followed by W. C. Stetson, of Farmington, and others.

5 P. M.—Address on "The Public School Revenue." Discussion; opened by W. A. Smith, of Camden, formerly of Common School Education." D. B. Hager, Principal of Normal School, Salem, Mass., followed by discussion.

11 A. M.—"Methods of Instruction in Drawing." This subject will be presented by Rev. N. W. P. Root, of Portland.

2 P. M.—"Public School Revenue." Discussion; opened by W. A. Smith, of Camden, formerly of Common School Education.

34 P. M.—"Teaching the English Language." Discussion; opened by E. H. Abbott, County Supervisor for Franklin County, followed by W. A. Chase of Portland High School, and others.

"City and Town Supervision." Discussion; opened by Thomas Tash, Superintendent of Schools, Lewiston, and others.

2 P. M.—"Teaching the English Language." Discussion; opened by E. H. Abbott, County Supervisor for Franklin County, followed by W. A. Chase of Portland High School, and others.

"The Portland Argus says that Allen Colby, of Lewiston, a son of Brunswick, the veteran road-master on the Maine Central Railroad, having been connected with the Portland & Kennebec Railroad ever since its construction, almost twenty-five years ago, has resigned his position. He has become half owner with the Howards of Topsham in their patent car derrick, and the company will go into the manufacture of the article on a large scale at Topsham.

"An immense business is done in the granite quarries of Maine. The Portland Argus says that the quarries of Vinalhaven and adjacent islands, employ some sixteen hundred workmen. The pay roll of one company foots up about \$80,000 a month. Another company disbursements about \$50,000 per month. The great part of this money circulates in Rockland and vicinity.

"Snow fell in this city and mostly in other parts of the State on Friday night, to the depth of six or twelve inches, making tolerable sleighing during the following day; but with the mild northeasterly rain storm of Wednesday, very little is left of the snow or the sleighing in this vicinity.

"BIRDS FOR HOUSE CULTURE. Partridge, just opposite the FARMER office, has a large collection of Hyacinth bulbs for winter flowering, and those who relish in flower decoration and perfume for their rooms in winter, should secure a selection of the different colors at once. They are from the celebrated and reliable establishment of W. R. Rochester, N. Y.

"The right of colored persons to ride in all public conveyances was settled in Baltimore the other day. Upon the city horse cars negroes have been hitherto excluded, save upon those that bear the sign "colored persons admitted into this car." A colored man named John M. Field got into a car expressly reserved for the "white trash," and was forcibly ejected therefrom. At this he brought an action to recover \$2,500, damages, and it was argued in the United States Circuit Court. It was claimed that the Constitution gave colored persons a right to ride in any cars that white men did. On Monday last the jury awarded the plaintiff \$40 damages, the decision carrying with it, however, the right of negroes to be admitted into all street cars.

"Anxiety has been felt at the non-arrival of the Russian fleet, now overdue at New York, having on board the Grand Duke Alexis and suite, whose visit to this country has been for some time expected. The tardiness of the fleet has also created apprehensions in St. Petersburg for his safety. These apprehensions have been to some extent allayed by the arrival at New York of a Russian corvette, which parted company with the fleet only twenty-seven days previously. Consequently it is thought the Grand Duke may be expected at any moment.

"Hon. Lot M. Morrill has returned from his visit to Kansas and other Western States, very much improved in health.

I OOSE TALK ABOUT SCHOOLS. We were provoked to a consideration of this subject at the present time by some loose jointed, ill-considered and illogical talk on this subject by one of our exchanges. The writer of the article in question thinks that rather than enact a law compelling attendance at school, the Legislature should "do away with the present useless machinery of State and County Supervisors." He says:

"The old system works as well as any, and neither by this extra supervising of schools, nor by forcing schools to attend them, can we do away with the useless machinery of State and County Supervisors. This is the way to do away with the outer limit of the city boundary, a much larger part of the city proper was burned or a stranger would be led to suppose from the published maps. The houses burned, set ten feet apart would form a row over one hundred miles in length, while more than a third of the roof space and fully half the floor space in a city the population of which was 300,000, was destroyed. The completeness with which the fire did its work is remarkable. In not more than a dozen cases have the four walls of any of the great blocks, or of any buildings been left standing together. Generally, the walls crumbled in from top to bottom, nothing remaining but a broad low heap of rubbish in the cellars. Granite, sandstones, limestone and marble are flaked and sealed, and blocks two and three feet thick are cracked through and through. Bituminous limestone seems to have stood rather better than others. Iron columns and floor beams are often bent to a half circle. The wooden (Nicholson) and concrete pavements remain unbroken, except where red-hot materials or burning liquids have lain upon them. Street rails on wood are generally in good order, on McDonald were badly warped. Rows of tall trees affording much protection to buildings, and the large number of them in the North Division would have been an efficient protection to the houses they surrounded, had the buildings to windward been a little less tall, or the gale a degree less furious. The wind, during the fire was not only very strong, but gusty and whirling. There is evidence of concentrated salts, ashes and back-setts. At the present day, there is no help to be had, and those who believe with Mr. Johnson that there is a remedy, and instead of throwing cold water on his earnest, self-sacrificing efforts to improve our system of popular education, we will bid him God speed in his labors, while we will not agree to accept all his writings as true. Good schools are scarce, and always will be, for as a general thing, the more teaching the common schools only a few of the best teachers can be had. Granite, sandstones, limestone and marble are flaked and sealed, and blocks two and three feet thick are cracked through and through. Bituminous limestone seems to have stood rather better than others. Iron columns and floor beams are often bent to a half circle. The wooden (Nicholson) and concrete pavements remain unbroken, except where red-hot materials or burning liquids have lain upon them. Street rails on wood are generally in good order, on McDonald were badly warped. 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